

**City of Akron American Rescue Plan Act** 

State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund

City Council Presentation



# Our Guidehouse Team With You Today

Providing ongoing support and subject matter expertise



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# Guidehouse at a glance – Building Trust in Society

# **Public Sector**

Bringing the power of our federal, state, and local disaster recovery, grants management, and economic revitalization practices...

# **Financial Advisory**

...with our deep experience in financial management, compliance, and economic development to assist communities recover and thrive...

#### **OUR PEOPLE OUR COMPANY OUR AWARDS**



locations globally







generations of professionals













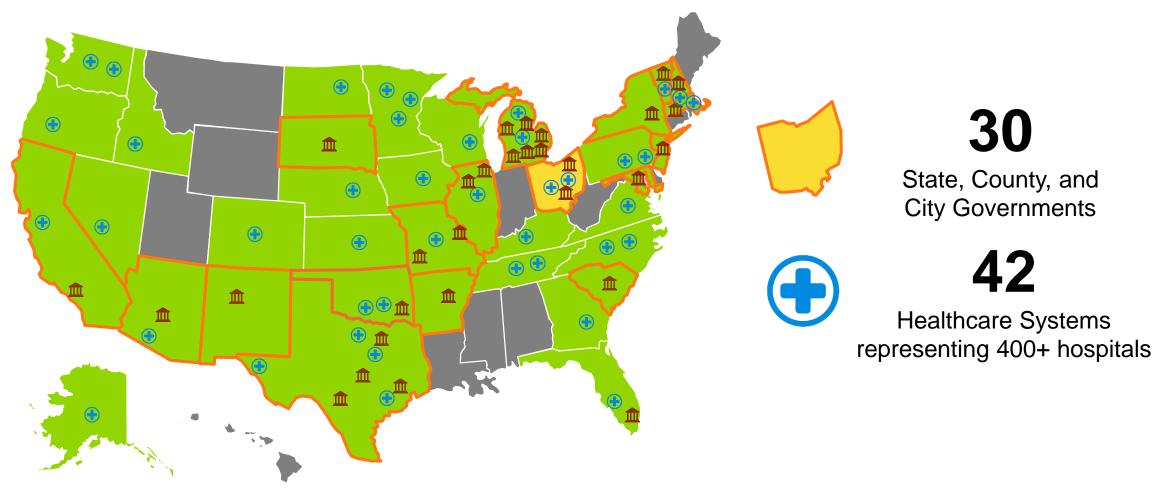


POWERED BY STATIST





# **Our Current COVID-19 Experience**





Guidehouse

Our Approach
A tailored approach for the City of Akron

•	August Sept	ember Octobe	er November	December 2021-2024
I. Project Management Office	Establish project management best practice including, but not limited, project governance, messaging, meeting and status reports.			
II. Design Department Projects	Interviews and department status update cadence	City leaders appropriate funding to allow for distribution.	priorities and SLFRF	ties/projects to the Mayoral eligibility, determine KPIs Ongoing meeting cadence to address needs
III. Project Implementation			providing ongoing	performance, success, and memo keeping to document decisions
IV. Ongoing Monitoring and Tracking	Socialize tracking methodology and documentation		Monitoring ongoing trea	asury guidance and reporting
V. Community Engagement			(Engage residents	s community engagement s about the process of the American Rescue Plan Act)

# **Community Engagement**

The City of Akron is committed to taking a deliberate approach to engaging and sharing information with residents regarding ARPA-SLFRF budget priorities

Public Information Sessions	Provide additional opportunities to share information with residents related to the ARPA planning process, the City's priorities, and the eligibility of projects.
Project Spending Dashboard	Communicate what projects are being funded and where dollars are being spent.
Racial Equity Framework	Address racial and socioeconomic inequity, not only with guidance from the recent Executive Order and Treasury's Interim Rules for SLFRF, but also through the lens of the structural and historic challenges still evident in the City.
Targeted Efforts to Gather Input from Residents Regarding Budget Priorities	Provide additional opportunities to share information and gather input regarding ARPA budget priorities and eligible projects.



# **Proposed Governance Structure**

Gaining perspectives and priorities for the advancement of the City of Akron





# **Key Activities of ARPA Management**

Project
Assessment,
Development,
and
Formulation

- Unified approach to recovery that binds the public, private, and notfor-profit sectors together
- Maximize funding currently available and position projects for future funding from Federal/State sources

Cost
Tracking,
Accounting,
and Vendor
Procurement

- Consolidate costs to ensure a stable, compliant payment tracking mechanism
- Best in class procurement and program management policies to enhance value of recovery

Communication and Liaison Services

- Clear channels of communication across stakeholders to coordinate efforts
- Regular coordination with State and Federal agencies to strengthen relationships and progress projects

Guidance and Training

- In-time policy and regulatory guidance to facilitate impactful decision making and policy decisions
- Increased capacity through formal and informal training provided to staff and other stakeholders

Reporting
and
Compliance
Monitoring

- Common sense compliance program to foster speed of spending while mitigating risks
- Coordination of benefits to maximize funding and avoid duplication of benefits and audit issues



# State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds



# **Policy Overview**

#### **Eligibility Framework**

Funding directly addresses a negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency

- 1) Negative Impact: Identify the harmful effect of COVID-19 that the activity or expense will address.
  - Nature of harm: Assess the causal or compounding connection to COVID-19.
  - Nature of harm: Assess the disproportionate impact on distressed sectors or populations.
- 2) Respond to Impact: Determine how to demonstrate the activity or expense produces the expected outcome(s) to address and respond to the harm caused by COVID-19.

#### **Timeframe**

- •Costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021, unless otherwise stated in the guidance
- Must be obligated by December 31, 2024
- Expended by December 31, 2026

SLFRF awards are generally subject to the requirements set forth in Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200). This guidance outlines a recipient's compliance responsibilities as they relate to procurement, internal controls, allowable costs, subrecipient monitoring, and more.

Recipients are directed to report how funds were used to prioritize equity.



# **Eligible Uses**

#### **Support the Public Health Response**

Meet and address emergent public health needs



Respond to the **Negative Economic Impacts** 

Address economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency



**Premium Pay for Essential Workers** 

Provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

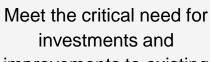


**Revenue Loss** 

Provide government services to the extent of reduction in revenue experienced due to COVID-19



Investments in Infrastructure



investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband



# Reporting Requirements



# **Reporting Requirements**

# Key dates and timeframes

	Interim Report	Project & Expenditure Reports
Requirements	<ul> <li>✓ Obligations and expenditures by Expenditure Category</li> <li>✓ Revenue replacement calculation details and description of services provided</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Types of projects funded and status</li> <li>Financial data (obligations &amp; expenditures)</li> <li>Information on contracts, grants, &amp; subawards over \$50k</li> <li>Project demographic distribution – focus on disadvantaged and highly impacted communities</li> <li>Additional information specific to certain expenditure categories</li> </ul>
Frequency & Submission Date	<ul> <li>✓ One-time</li> <li>✓ Was submitted on August 31, 2021</li> <li>✓ Covered date of award through July 31, 2021</li> <li>✓ Obligations and expenditures = \$0</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Quarterly</li> <li>By October 31, 2021 and 30 days after the end or quarter thereafter</li> </ul>



# Project Assessment, Development, and Formulation



#### **Examples of Projects Deemed Eligible & Moving Forward\***

#### **Public Utilities**

- Water Main Replacement
- Lead Service Line Replacement
- · Akron Cares Utility Assistance
- Minor Plumbing Repair Grant Program



#### Housing

- Down Payment Assistance Program
- New Affordable Housing Construction Financing
- Housing Rehabilitation Grants for Qualified Homeowners

#### Parks & Public Places

- Lock 3 Vision Plan
- Akron Youth Conservation Corp
- Summit Lake Recreational Access
- Community Recreation Center Revitalization



#### **Violence Prevention**

- Neighborhood Doorbell Cameras
- Youth Violence Prevention Grant Community Program
- Surveillance Cameras for Pilot Program

#### **Small Business Growth**

- · Business Mentorship Program
- · Main Street Retail Draft Program





# Access to Healthcare & Social Services

- Financial Coaches
- · AxessPointe Community Health Center





# **Appendix**



#### **Violence Prevention**

#### Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Youth Violence Prevention Community Grant Program EC 3.16, Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	Funding will support community based and nonprofit organizations providing programs aimed at preventing youth violence through after school education programming, workforce readiness and opportunities, mentoring, and more. Organizations will complete a grant application and interview process through the City of Akron and would qualify using the priorities and structure of the Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan.	Increase the working capacity of local youth-serving organizations working in areas with high levels of violence; Ensure youth in Akron have access to safe environments to recreate, learn, and socialize; Increase the availability of job and mentorship opportunities for youth in Akron	
Surveillance Cameras for Pilot Program EC 3.16, Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	Purchase and install technology as a cost-effective way to deter, document, and reduce the rise in violent crime. This pilo program can serve as a replicable model that can be built out and instituted in other Akron neighborhoods to enhance safety.	with solving crimes in high-crime neighborhoods	Community violence intervention programs (b, 12, i, C)
Neighborhood Doorbell Cameras EC 3.16, Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	Fund the purchase of doorbell cameras to be dispersed in high crime areas.	Purchase & distribute 3,000-5,000 ring cameras to Akron residents living in high crime areas; Assist law enforcement with solving crimes in high-crime neighborhoods	Community violence intervention programs (b, 12, i, C)

<sup>\*</sup> Deemed eligible and moving forward as of September 27, 2021





## **Public Utility Investments**

#### Negative Economic Impacts

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Akron Cares - Utility Assistance EC 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Support the continuation of the Akron Cares utility bill relief program	Provide short-term relief to residents in the most need, enables self-sufficiency and protects public health	Assistance programs to households. (b, 8)
Minor Plumbing Repairs Grant Program EC 3.12, Other Housing Assistance	Create a minor home plumbing repair program that targets support to low-income and elderly residents	Reduce the financial burden of plumbing repairs on some of Akron's lowest income households; Maintain older housing stock; allow individuals to age in place	Assistance programs to households. (b, 8)  Programs or services that address housing insecurity lack of affordable housing, or homelessness. (b,12,ii)

#### Infrastructure

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Lead Service Replacement EC 5.12, Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution: Lead Remediation	Remove and replace the remaining lead service lines in Akron.	Replace up to 3,200 active lead water services currently owned within the Akron Water Distribution System; Address health disparities and social determinants of health by replacing lead service lines	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Investments. (e, 1)
Water Main Replacement Projects EC 5.11, Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution	Reduce public health, safety, and regulatory compliance risk by replacing outdated water mains.	Replace approximately 7 miles of the most critical watermain throughout the Akron water distribution system; Reduce public health, safety, and regulatory compliance risk associated with outdated water mains.	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Investments. (e, 1)

<sup>\*</sup> Deemed eligible and moving forward as of September 27, 2021





#### **Parks & Public Places**

#### Negative Economic Impacts

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Lock 3 Vision Plan EC 2.11, Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	Provide infrastructure and capital needs funding for improvements to Lock 3 (aka "Akron's Centra Park")	Provide overhead support for a park/public plaza that attracts an estimated at 300,000 visitors per year; Create new outdoors spaces (e.g., garden paths, skating areas, shaded seating, artwork and game terraces) that provide residents with increased opportunities for socialization and increases quality of life	Assistance to tourism, travel, and hospitality that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. (b, 7)
Akron Youth Conservation Corp EC 2.10, Aid to nonprofit organizations	Fund the creation of Akron Youth Conservation Corp (AYCC) through the Akron Parks Collaborative (APC)	Maintain and improve neighborhood parks; Provide a number of Akron youth with livable wages, education, and workforce preparation; Increase the number of minority youth interested in pursuing a career in natural resource management.	Assistance to nonprofit organizations, including loans, grants, in- kind assistance or other services that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency (b, 7)
Summit Lake Recreational Access EC 3.13, Social Determinants of Health: Other	Provide funding to connect the Ohio and Erie Canal Summit Lake Trail and develop the North Shore Activity Area.	Increase the amount of multi-use trail that Summit Lake area residents can utilize for transportation and outdoor recreation; Expand the North Shore Activity Area.	Programs and services include services designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and to address health disparities and the social determinants of health. For example, investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19". (SLFRF FAQ p.11)
Community Center Revitalization Project(s) EC 3.17, Social Determinants of Health: Other	Provide funding to improve the accessibility and useability of several community recreation centers throughout Akron	Increase the capacity to provide child recreation and education programming; Increase the accessibility of community centers to those with disabilities	Programs and services include services designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and to address health disparities and the social determinants of health. For example, investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19". (SLFRF FAQ p.11)

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## Housing

#### Service to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Down Payment Assistance Program EC 3.12, Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	Provide grants to qualified individuals or families who intend to purchase an existing owner-occupied single-family home in Akron.	Reduce the financial barrier of home ownership to low-income residents; Increase homeownership in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT)	Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness. (b,12,ii)
New Affordable Housing Construction Financing EC 3.10, Housing Support: Affordable Housing	Appraisal gap grant and affordable housing construction financing program.	Increase the number of affordable housing units in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT); Increase homeownership in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT)	Development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units. (b, 12, ii, B)
Housing Rehabilitation Grants for Qualified Homeowners EC 3.12, Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	Targeted housing rehabilitation and repair program.	Maintain older housing stock; Reduce the financial burden associated with maintaining a healthy home environment	Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness. (b,12,ii)

<sup>\*</sup> Deemed eligible and moving forward as of September 27, 2021





#### **Small Business Growth**

#### Negative Economic Impacts

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
Business Mentorship Program EC 2.9, Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	Create a business mentorship program specifically for minority business owners	Provide resources for members of underrepresented groups to grow their small businesses; empower minority small business owners	Assistance to small businesses including technical assistance (b, 6)
Main Street Retail Draft Program EC 2.9, Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	Create a grant program for entrepreneurs and small businesses seeking to expand their storefront(s) on Akron's Mainstreet	Provide capital support to entrepreneurs and small businesses that incentivizes long-term commitment; Increase occupancy rates of store fronts on Main Street (in QCT); Increase new jobs in Akron's Central Business District	Assistance to small businesses including technical assistance (b, 6); Aid to impacted industries (b, 9)

#### **Access to Healthcare & Social Services**

#### Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Title	Description	Outcome	Allowable Use
AxessPointe Community Health Center 3.13, Social Determinants of Health: Other	r Provide funding to support the development of a new federally qualified health clinic	Increase access to healthcare services for low-income residents in the western portion of the City.	Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services (b,12,i)  Expenses to improve efficacy of public health programs. (b, 10)
Financial Coaches 3.14, Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigator	Fund the Akron Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) through United Way	Assist low-income residents with managing the short-term and long-term financial challenges from COVID-19 pandemic; Assist residents in obtaining the services they need (e.g., financial support for their mortgage, rent, and utility bills)	Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services (b,12,i)

<sup>\*</sup> Deemed eligible and moving forward as of September 27, 2021



